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may confer, if properly applied: and that thus he will become a better neighbour, a better husband and father, and a pious Christian.

I am, Gentlemen, &c. &c.

WM. D. C. COOPER.

The quantity of land let is thirty-seven acres, one rood, five poles; and the number of allotments eighty-two.

#### NO. IV.

#### FREEING FRUIT-TREES FROM INSECTS.

*The Thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. RICHARD GARTH, of Crackpol, near Richmond, Yorkshire, for the following account of his method of freeing Gooseberry-Trees from Caterpillars.*

*Crackpol, Swaledale, near Richmond, Yorkshire,*

SIR,

*March 1st, 1834.*

FINDING that it is the wish of the Society of Arts, &c. to receive information respecting any "effectual methods of destroying noxious insects, and preventing blights, or in any way improving the health of trees or plants," I trust that the following notice of a successful experiment for clearing caterpillars, &c. from the gooseberry-shrub, may not be unworthy the notice of the Society. The gooseberries in my garden were nearly destroyed, year after year, by caterpillars, a complaint very general in this part of the country: after trying many things to no purpose,

I thought of oil. When the caterpillars were about to make their appearance, I brushed the stems and strong branches of two or three plants, from the ground to the leaves, with a soft brush dipped in common fish-oil. On examining those plants again a few days after, I found them quite clear, while destruction was going on in the others. I then oiled the rest, which cleared them, and the crop went forward without interruption. I have oiled the trees slightly once a-year ever since, and found their health and vigour greatly improved by it; and they have not since that time failed in bringing an abundant crop of fruit every year. Last year I also tried it on a small cherry-tree, which the year before had been nearly killed by blight and small insects: it kept clear, and brought a good crop of fruit.

I believe the oil not only destroys the eggs and the newly hatched worms, but prevents the flies from depositing their eggs in the clefts of the bark. I have requested some of my friends to try it, which they have done with success, and I believe one of them sent the remark to the Newcastle paper. As oil is known to be destructive to most insects, I think it may be of great use in preserving plants, as I believe it improves their growth. That it may have a full trial, is my only reason for troubling you with this.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, *Esq.*

*Secretary, &c. &c.*

RICHD. GARTH.